

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9753

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: WILSON VISIT TO WASHINGTON: MBFR

REF: LONDON 01025

1. THE WILSON-CALLAGHAN TALKS IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK WILL PROVIDE RARE AND FLEETING OPPORTUNITY FOR THE US AND UK TO REVIEW AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS ON MBFR. IN SUCH DISCUSSIONS

PRESIDENT AND SECSTATE COULD IMPRESS ON HMG LEADERSHIP THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE US GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO OUR MBFR PROPOSALS ON INCLUSION OF AIR MANPOWER IN THE COMMON CEILING AND ON OPTIONAL US- SOVIET AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS IN PHASE I. SINCE IT IS CLEAR THAT US AND UK HOLD SHARED VIEW THAT FRG NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE US AIR MANPOWER PROPOSALS MAY DELAY TIMELY ALLIED AGREEMENT, US MIGHT EXPLORE WITH WILSON AND CALLAGHAN THEIR THINKING ON WAYS TO GET SCHMIDT, GENSCHER AND LEBER TO APPROACH AIR MANPOWER WITH AN OPEN MIND, IN VIEW OF ITS POTENTIAL TO HELP GAIN BASIC ALLIED OBJECTIVES IN MBFR.

2. WITH WILSON'S MOSCOW SUMMIT MEETING FOLLOWING HARD ON HEELS OF WASHINGTON TALKS, US WILL CERTAINLY WISH TO LEARN THOSE ASPECTS OF ALLIED AND UK THINKING ON MBFR THAT PM PLANS TO CONVEY TO THE SOVIET LEADERS. FROM HERE IT WOULD APPEAR THAT PM AS A EUROPEAN LEADER MIGHT USEFULLY CONVEY TO SOVIET LEADERSHIP SOLID ALLIED INTEREST IN SEEKING MOVEMENT IN THE MBFR TALKS AND, IN THIS CONNECTION

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INDICATE THAT ALLIES ARE CONSIDERING CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS IN THE WESTERN POSITION WHICH WOULD SERVE TO MEET SOME OF THE LONG-STANDING EASTERN OBJECTIONS TO THE WESTERN POSITION. WILSON COULD STRESS THAT ANY MODIFICATIONS TO THE WESTERN POSITION, HOWEVER, WOULD

NECESSARILY BE DEPENDENT UPON EASTERN WILLINGNESS TO MOVE TOWARD THE BASIC WESTERN OBJECTIVES OF REDUCTIONS LEADING TO A COMMON CEILING.

3. PM MIGHT FIND THIS ROLE ATTRACTIVE FOR ENHANCING HIS OWN POSITION WITH THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP AS ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN QUEST FOR EAST-WEST DETENTE. ALSO, WILSON'S STATURE WITH HIS EC-9 COLLEAGUES COULD RECEIVE A BOOST IF HE WERE IN A POSITION TO BRIEF THEM ON THE RESULTS OF SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION WITH SOVIET LEADERS ON A SUBJECT OF SUCH VITAL CONCERN. FINALLY, IT COULD GIVE THE UK (AND THE EUROPEAN ALLIES GENERALLY) A GREATER SENSE OF PARTICIPATION IN EAST-WEST ARMS CONTROL DEVELOPMENTS AND SERVE TO FURTHER ENHANCE ALLIED COHESION HERE AT NATO ON MBFR POLICY MATTERS.
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